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APR 2 1974
APR 11 2, 1974

Mr. Ronald G. Kukal
Box 110
West Nebraska Technical College
Sidney, Nebraska 69162

Dear Mr. Kukal:

The Department has received your letter of March 24, 1974, expressing certain views about the amount (\$24,000) you received for injuries sustained during the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty by armed forces of the Government of Israel on June 8, 1967. You state that additional personal problems have developed since the receipt of the award and inquire whether the case might be reopened to obtain additional compensation.

The Department appreciates the difficult rehabilitation and adjustment problems which can result from experiences such as yours. You may be interested in knowing that the amount recovered from the Government of Israel for your injuries was based on a careful consideration of a number of factors, such as:

1. The nature, extent and severity of the injuries received;
2. The length and type of medical care required to treat such injuries;
3. The medical prognosis of the injuries and future medical needs, if any;
4. The degree and length of physical or mental impairment suffered, if any;
5. The anticipated reduction or loss of future earning capacity, if any, resulting from such injuries;
6. The age, occupation and marital status of the person injured.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>John Kelly</i>	DATE <i>1/10/83</i>
FOUO ☐ XDC ☐ EXT. DATE	REASON(S)
TS-AUT.	UNNOT & EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
D-CAS ☐ SIGNED ☐ RELEASEABLE ☒	
RELEASE UNDER E.O. 11652	
EX. OF FBI EXEMPTIONS	

ORH
Ronald G. Kukal
Box 110 W.H.T.O.
Sidney, Nebraska 68162
March 24, 1974

Department of State
International Claims Office
Washington D.C.

Gentlemen:

I was one of the members of the crew of the U.S.S. LIBERTY that was torpedoed and strafed during the Arab-Israeli War on June 8, 1967. I was in receipt of the amount of \$24,000, which had been accorded to me in remuneration for the injuries and problems I sustained because of the accident.

To be perfectly frank, I would like to know if it is possible to re-open this case, as I feel that the amount I received was only a token sum in consideration of the problems I have encountered.

I know that I signed a form indicating that I would accept this sum, and would not ask for more, however, it is my contention that at the time I signed this paper, I was under the utmost emotional stress. This can be proved by just looking at my hospital reports from the V.A. Hospitals that I have been to. I have also been drawing 70% disability from them for a nerve condition, this has been reduced to 50%.

I want to say at this point, that you people were more than helpful to me 7 years ago, and I am more than thankful, but after trying to cope with the problems I have had, and working to fit back into society, I firmly believe that the amount paid to me should have been substantially more.

This has cost me 7 years of my life so far, not to mention the problems it has cost my family, especially my wife. We are, at the present, a childless couple, which incidentally I believe came from the problems and pressures that were brought to bear upon my wife when I came home.

I would also like you to know, that during the past 7 years, I have done everything within my power to get myself educated, and into a decent job. It is my feeling that I have failed myself, and what family I have, solely because of what happened aboard the U.S.S. LIBERTY. I cannot say exactly what was wrong with me at the time, but there are many reports, medical records, and people I have known that can be reviewed. I also do not feel as though I am asking for welfare, only what I should have had coming.

This letter is only an opinion on my part, which I believe can be proved if the need arises. I have not consulted any lawyer at the present, and am relying completely on your concern and judgement.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald G. Kukal
Ronald G. Kukal

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